

## A Note of Thanks

When you support The Gretta Foundation, you know that you are making a life-changing difference for the individual scholars we fund. You probably even recognize that you are improving healthcare more broadly in their communities. **But have you really stopped to think that every week, literally thousands of people—the overwhelming majority of them poor—who go to a hospital or clinic in Uganda are helped by a nurse or midwife who was trained by the Gretta Foundation?**

These patients will probably never know the name of the Gretta Foundation. But whether they come in with serious burns, injuries, dehydration, a need for surgery, or difficulties in childbirth, what they will know is that they are in the hands of a skilled, compassionate health professional. **Together, we help to ensure that some of the most highly trained frontline health workers in Uganda are working in areas with the greatest need.**

### OUR GRADUATES

We continue to hear from past graduates, such as "Hannah," who finished her degree in 2015 and is proud of her work as a nurse in charge of the inpatient department at a Health Center in Alebtong in Northern Uganda. "Hannah" also oversees her hospital's community outreach program. In her work, she immunizes countless children in rural Uganda.



**We congratulate our 11 new graduates who completed their degrees in 2018.** They have overcome many challenges to become lifesaving health professionals in communities across Uganda. And as we have so often seen, our graduates often go on to become leaders the hospitals and health centers where they work.



"Stella" wrote to tell us how she is already stepping up: *I am delighted to inform you that I successfully completed my course as a Registered Midwife in December 2018. It's your endless support and love that has enabled me to become an important and productive person in our country. I am happy to inform you that I was chosen to be in charge of midwives in the hospital where I work currently.*

"Stella" working with her midwifery scholars.

### CURRENT SCHOLARS

We currently have 29 Scholars at various stages of their degrees. One shared a story about the importance of not giving up and providing the best care possible under the circumstances.

*[The patient] was 69 years old and she had sustained a severe head injury as she was involved in a terrible accident. She was unconscious, on a respiratory support machine...even the doctors didn't have hope of her survival. [They] had recommended an operation to be done on her head (a craniotomy), yet the family didn't have money [and no one else would pay].... As the medical team, we resorted to other alternative management besides the operation. We carried out our nursing care day by day...continued to do what we were supposed to do, though we had lost hope. But slowly she started to respond, day by day, which made us happy—the medical team plus her family—because we thought the operation was the only thing to save her. She spent over two months in ICU, then was transferred to the surgical ward...because she had improved and wasn't on ventilation anymore. I followed up on my patient even after discharge from ICU. What made me happy most was her recovery even without the operation being done. She was doing well and was discharged home.*



Having had to overcome poverty and other barriers to their success, our Scholars know a thing or two about persistence, and they fight for their patients' health and wellbeing every day.

### **NEW SCHOLARS**



The academic calendar in Uganda has changed this year, and our new cohort of 10 amazing Scholars will start this July. We are so pleased to welcome them. Every one of them has a story to tell about what brought them to nursing and midwifery. For example:

"Carolina," the eldest of ten children, who was raised by her grandmother after her mother remarried. Although her uncle did not see the point of educating a girl and pressured her to get married, her grandmother refused. When her grandfather died, she and her grandmother were forced off their land. They struggled, but were able to secure government support so that Carolina could finish secondary school.

She was inspired to become a midwife when she took her sister to a health center to deliver her baby. There, Carolina saw the lone midwife work all evening, all night without sleep, and into the morning because there were so many women in labor. Eventually, a traditional birth attendant took over for two hours so the midwife could sleep a little. Then, Carolina's sister and another woman both went into distress. Carolina's nephew was born in asphyxia--but the midwife came and was able to resuscitate him. Yet the other woman and baby did not survive because she was the only one there with the training to handle such emergencies, and there were too many at once. Carolina was inspired to "add to the number of midwives so that maternal mortality and perinatal death rates" can be reduced. She has been working in Gulu as an "enrolled" midwife, and is deeply grateful for the chance to scale up to a full Diploma in Midwifery.

I hope that these stories and the words of our Scholars and Graduates inspire you, and that you recognize how much of a difference you make for them and their communities. They couldn't do what they do without the Gretta Foundation, and we couldn't do what we do for them without your generosity. **Thank you. Thank you.**

**Thank you.**